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*Abriss der Psychologie*, by HERMANN EBBINGHAUS. Veit & Co., Leipzig, 1908. pp. 196.

This little outline, which ought really to be translated into English, begins with brief history of psychology. Then follows in the first section short chapters on the relation of brain to soul, structure of the nervous system, reaction and parallelism, nature of the soul. The second division is on elementary phenomena of psychic life—sensations, concepts, feelings, instincts, will. Then the fundamental laws of psychic processes—attention, memory, fatigue. Third, the outer effects of these processes seen in sensation and movement, concept and movement. The third division is entitled "The Complications of Psychic Life." Under the caption of the life of concepts, the author treats perception, illusions, memory, abstraction, with twenty good pages on language; then follows a discourse on the relations between that and knowledge and faith. The second part of the third section deals with feeling and action. Here first are discussed the causes of the complications of feelings—their intensity, form, association, irradiation, the passions and moods, and complex and free activities. The last section is devoted to the highest activities of the soul—the disadvantages or the evils of foresight, religion, art and morals. We only wish the book had been more copiously illustrated than with the very slight seven cuts.

*Goethe's Wetzlarer Verwandschaft*, von R. SOMMER. Leipzig, J. A. Barth, 1908. pp. 47. Mit 8 Abbildungen.

The argument of this little book is as follows. Goethe tells us that he had from his mother "die Frohnatur und Lust zu fabulieren." Since Goethe closely resembles in feature and expression his mother's mother, the question arises whether the "Lust zu fabulieren" did not come from his maternal grandmother. Of her, the Frau Stadtschultheiss Textor geb. Lindheimer, we have no record save a scandalous and untrustworthy statement of Senckenberg's. Of her father, Goethe's maternal great-grandfather, we know more: he was part author of a satire, "Diarium obsidionis Wetzlariensis," 1702,—though how much he wrote of this satire is unknown: the chief author was apparently a Dr. von Pulian. The satire (it is printed by Dr. Sommer) shows five characteristics: clearness of visual imagery, fanciful embroidery of real events ('confabulation'), pleasure in the drastic and grotesque, an underlying serious appreciation of cultural conditions, and a rationalistically pedantic and lawyer-like style. As all these characteristics may be found in Goethe's writing, we may conclude that Goethe owed the "Lust zu fabulieren" to the Lindheimer stock.

The weak points in the argumentation are clear enough. We know nothing of the temperament of the maternal grandmother; the satire was composed by "einige Wetzlarische Witzlinge" of whom Cornelius Lindheimer was seemingly not the chief, so that his part in its composition may have been small; the main characters of the satire, which is by no means underestimated by Dr. Sommer, are the characters of satire at large; and von Pulian was a lawyer, so that the 'Witzlinge' would naturally belong to his circle, and the legal style is accounted for. One would say that the positive evidence must be strengthened, and that there must be negative evidence (marked absence of certain attributes in the other lines of descent) to support it, before Dr. Sommer's conclusion can be accepted. P. E. WINTER.

*The Riddle of the Personality*, by H. ADDINGTON BRUCE. Moffat, Yard & Company, New York, 1908. pp. 247.

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